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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS
NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY EXEMPT NUK 81-273

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO. TDCS DB-3/657,066

SUBJECT SEVERAL OF DR. TRAN KIM TUYEN'S GROUP FAVOR THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT DIEM

DATE DISTR. 3 OCTOBER 1963

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

DATE OF INFO. 2 OCTOBER 1963

REFERENCES IN 31951

PLACE & DATE ACQ. SINGAPORE (2 OCTOBER 1963)

TDCSDB-3/656,932

APPRAISAL SEE BELOW

FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE

APPR: IT IS PROBABLE THAT THERE ARE KEY JUNIOR OFFICERS WITHIN THE TUYEN GROUP WHO ARE READY TO ACT AND THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THE NGO FAMILY MUST BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE. WHETHER THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT CANNOT BE JUDGED.

1. SUMMARY. A MEMBER OF DR. TRAN KIM TUYEN'S GROUP STATED, ON 2 OCTOBER, THAT SEVERAL OF TUYEN'S POLITICAL FOLLOWERS, ESPECIALLY THE JUNIOR OFFICERS, BELIEVED THAT QUICK ACTION AND THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT DIEM, FOLLOWED BY PROMPT POLITICAL ACTION AND PROPAGANDA, WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE PRESENT IMPASSE IN SOUTH VIETNAM. DR. TUYEN, THE MEMBER QUICKLY ADDED, WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF ASSASSINATING THE PRESIDENT, HOWEVER.

2. ON 2 OCTOBER A MEMBER OF DR. TRAN KIM TUYEN'S GROUP SAID THAT HE IS PLANNING TO RETURN TO SOUTH VIETNAM IN ORDER TO MAKE SEVERAL CONTACTS AND CHECK ON REALIGNING RELATIONSHIPS FOR TUYEN. THE MEMBER THEN INDICATED

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GROUP 1
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HIS CONVICTION THAT QUICK ACTION, COMMENCING WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM, WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE PRESENT IMPASSE. WHEN ASKED IF SUCH ACTION MIGHT NOT MAKE A MARTYR OF THE PRESIDENT, CAUSE THE TOTAL ALIENATION OF MANY NATIONALISTS, SET A PRECEDENT FOR FURTHER VIOLENCE, AND DESTROY THE SYMBOL OF NATIONAL UNITY, THE MEMBER COUNTERED THAT PROMPT POLITICAL ACTION AND A PROPAGANDA FOLLOW-UP WOULD OVERCOME ANY POPULAR POST FACTO REPUGNANCE FOR THE LOSS OF A NATIONAL SYMBOL.

3. WHEN QUERIED AS TO WHETHER ALL OF TUYEN'S GROUP WAS ENTERTAINING SUCH PLANNING, THE MEMBER QUICKLY SAID THAT TUYEN WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF ASSASSINATING THE PRESIDENT, NOR WOULD THE MEMBER PERSONALLY THINK OF URGING TUYEN'S FOLLOWERS TO DO SO WITHOUT TUYEN'S APPROVAL, BUT THAT SEVERAL IN THE GROUP, AND ESPECIALLY THE JUNIOR OFFICERS, WERE CONVINCED THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY A COUP D'ETAT COULD SUCCEED.

4. IN COMMENTING ON FOREIGN REACTION TO SUCH A MOVE, THE MEMBER SAID: "IF WE ARE TO SAVE VIETNAM, WE CANNOT WAIT FOR, NOR WORRY ABOUT, OFFICIAL REACTIONS. IF WE DO NOT DO IT, SOMEONE ELSE WILL."

FIELD DISSEM. NONE.

END OF MESSAGE

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